

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0271

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, NG, US

SUBJECT: VIP VISIT-ALFIDJA ABDERAIHMANE

REF: STATE 62145

1. WE HAVE JUST CONFERRED WITH ALFIDJA WHO CONFIRMS THAT HE WILL BE ARRIVING WASHINGTON MARCH 23 FOR SEVERAL DAYS VISIT. HE WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SECRETARY OF STATE R RURAL ECONOMY ANNOU. HIS UNDERSTANDING OF SCHEDULE WHICH IS IN AMBASSADOR SALIFOU'S HANDS, IS THAT HE WILL BE SPENDING MARCH 24 AND 25 WITH THE WORLD BANK AND MARCH 26 AND 27 IN NEW YORK. HE IS DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN MEETING USG OFFICIALS FOR GENERAL REVIEW OF US PROGRAMS IN NIGER. THIS COULD TAKE PLACE DURING MARCH 2 IF WORLD BANK DOES NOT HAVE HIM FULLY SCHEDULED. ALTERNATEVELY,

OR ADDITIONALLY, HE AND ANNOU ARE PREPARED TO RETURN FROM NEW YORK AND SPEND MARCH 28 WITH USG. HE SUGGESTS THAT DEPARTMENT AND AMBASSADOR SALIFOU WORK OUT

SCHEDULE WITHIN ABOVE GUIDELINES.

2. ALFIDJA, WHOSE FULL TITLE IS SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND COOPERATION AND HAS RANK OF MINISTER AS DOES ANNOUBK PG ONE OF RANKING CIVIL SERVANTS IN NIGER GOVERNMENT AND OCCUPIES KEY POSITION IN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS AS ALL
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FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROJECTS MUST GO THROUGH HIS OFFICE.

HE IS SERIOUS, HARDWORKING, BUT SOMETHING OF A BOTTLE
NECK, WHICH IS PERHAPS INEVITABLE IN HIS JOB. ANNOU WHO RANKS
AFTER ALFIDJA IS THE HIERARCHY, IS UNDOUBTEDLY THE MOST
ABLE OF NINGER'S CIVIL SERVANTS. WE WORK VERY CLOSELY WITH HIM
AND HE HAS PLAYED A MAJOR AND POSITIVE ROLE IN OVERSEEING NIGER'S
RECOVERY FROM THE DROUGHT LAST YEAR. USG OFFICIALS SHOULD BE
ABLE TO GET FROM THESE TWO OFFICIALS GOOD OVERVIEW OF NIGER'S
PROGRESS TO DATE IN RECOVERING FROM THE DROUGHT AND DEVELOPMENT
ASPIARATION.

3. WE RECOMMEND THAT ALFIDJA AND ANNOU CALL ON RANKING MEMBER
OF AFRICA BUREAU FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF NIGER DEVELOPMENTAL
AND ECONOMIC FUTURE AND ROLE OF US THEREIN. THEY SHOULD ALSO SEE
AFRICA BUREAU IN AID, WHERE WE WOULD HOPE
DR ADAMS, DON BROWN AND DAVE SHEAR COULD MEET WITH THEM
FOR MORE DETAILED REVIEW OF US AID EFFORTO NIGER. WE HAVE
TOLD ALFIDJA AID/W WILL UNDOUBTEDLY ASK HIS VIEWS ON DAC
CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS PRESENTATION AT CILSS REGARDING ORGANIZATION OF
LONG-RANGE DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE AND WE SUGGESTED THAT HE
DO HIS HOMEWORK ON THIS SUBJECT. SEPTTEL FROM RDO PROVIDES
ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS ON TOPICS FOR AID MEETINGS.HECK

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